

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIG. 3. These sheets replace the original sheet and the previous replacement sheet for FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, the detail 354, which is not mentioned in the description, has been removed, as indicated on the Annotated Sheet Showing Changes.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet and Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 29, 30 and 41 have been amended. Claims 1 – 41 are currently pending.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 29 has been amended to cure the antecedent basis issue raised by the Office Action.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by “Inside Macintosh: Macintosh Toolbox Essentials” (herein after “Toolbox”). Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 30 and 41 in response to this rejection. For instance, independent claim 1 now recites a data store that contains items having metadata “defining a plurality of user-selectable tasks.” Claim 1 further recites a shell that presents an item to the user with a “visual representation and with an indication of said plurality of user-selectable tasks defined by said metadata contained in said item.” Similar claim language is now found in independent claims 30 and 41. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Toolbox fails to teach each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1, 30 and 41.

Toolbox addresses how a “Finder Interface” feature of a Macintosh operating system manages a user’s desktop interface. Toolbox, p. 801. In the relevant portions, Toolbox provides details on how a user can create customized icons and assign resources to file types. Toolbox, pp. 803 and 815 – 816. In providing this customization, various identifiers and

references are stored along with a file and in various catalog/reference files. Toolbox, pp. 803, 815 and 816. When a file is accessed, the Macintosh operating system uses the identifiers to specify the icons and resources to be used with the file. Toolbox, pp. 803 and 816.

Despite the various customizations addressed by Toolbox, there is no mention of storing metadata defining a set of user-selectable tasks with a file. Similarly, Toolbox is silent on the issue of using file metadata to define user-selected tasks, which are presented to a user along with a file's icon. Given these deficiencies, Applicants respectfully submit that Toolbox does not teach each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1, 30 and 41, and Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 30 and 41 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2 - 29, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 31 - 40, which depend from claim 30, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 30.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 18, 30 – 35 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over an article titled “MacOSXHints” (MacOSXHints) in view of a second article titled “Mac OS X Disaster Relief: Troubleshooting Techniques to Help Fix it Yourself” (Landau), both of which describe an operating system product named Mac OS 10.2. Claims 19 – 23, 25 – 29, 36, 37, 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacOSXHints in view of Landau and Balabine, *et al.*, U. S. Patent No. 5,937,406 (“Balabine”). Claims 24 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacOSXHints in view of Landau and Balabine, and further in view of a third article titled MacOSXHints (MacOSXHints2).

Claims 1 – 18, 30 – 35 and 41

Claims 1 – 18, 30 – 35 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacOSXHints in view of Landau. Independent claims 1, 30 and 41 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that neither MacOSXHints nor Landau, either alone or in combination, discloses each and every limitation recited by independent claims 1, 30 and 41, as amended. Specifically, MacOSXHints and Landau do not disclose a data store that contains items having metadata “defining a plurality of user-selectable tasks” or a shell that presents an item to the user with a “visual representation and with an indication of said plurality of user-selectable tasks defined by said metadata contained in said item,” as required by amended independent claims 1, 30 and 41.

MacOSXHints addresses how a “Finder” feature of Mac OS 10.2 handles different types of windows states. For example, Finder saves the state of open windows “when you log out so that it can open them when you log back in.” To save file icon locations, Finder uses “an invisible file called .DS_Store located in the directory shown in the window.” Landau discloses a TinkerTool utility that allows a user to make invisible files, such as .DS_Store, visible.

Neither MacOSXHints nor Landau, however, teaches the claimed data store or the claimed shell required by the independent claims. Indeed, these references fail to disclose either storing metadata that defines a set of user-selectable tasks or any shell operations that are performed with respect to such metadata-defined tasks. Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 30 and 41 are in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2 - 18, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent

claims 31 - 35, which depend from claim 30, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 30.

Dependent Claims 19 – 23, 25 – 29, 36, 37, 39 and 40

Dependent claims 19 – 23, 25 – 29, 36, 37, 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacOSXHints in view of Landau, further in view of Balabine. Claims 19 – 23 and 25 – 29 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 36, 37, 39 and 40 depend from independent claim 30. As discussed above, claims 1 and 30 are patentable over MacOSXHints and Landau. Balabine also fails to disclose the invention of claims 1 and 30, individually or in combination with MacOSXHints and Landau. Claims 19 – 23, 25 – 29, 36, 37, 39 and 40 include all of the limitations of claim 1 or 30 and are also patentable over MacOSXHints, Landau and Balabine, taken individually or in combination with one another, for at least the reasons stated above.

Dependent Claims 24 and 38

Claims 24 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacOSXHints in view of Landau and Balabine, further in view of MacOSXHints2. Claim 24 depends from independent claim 1. Claim 38 depends from independent claim 30. As discussed above, claims 1 and 30 are patentable over MacOSXHints and Landau. Balabine and MacOSXHints2 also fail to disclose the invention of claims 1 and 30, separately or in combination with MacOSXHints and Landau. Claims 24 and 38 include all of the limitations of claim 1 or 30 and are also patentable over MacOSXHints, Landau, Balabine and MacOSXHints2, taken separately or in combination with one another, for at least the reasons stated above.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, claims 1 – 41 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,

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